

October 11, 2018

The October 11, 2018 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Dawn Smith, Robert Jewell, Glenn Todd, James McMekin and Ruth Pante.

It was MOVED by Mr. Todd to accept and approve the minutes of the July 12, 2018 meeting, seconded by Ms. Smith; all in favor with two abstentions. (A workshop meeting was held in August with only three members attending.)

Mr. Tarlowe reported on his contact with Mr. Miletsky, principal at Mansfield School; a poster contest was discussed. Members agreed a poster contest should be held closer to Earth Day to highlight environmental issues; also, awarding prizes was discussed. Contact with art teacher, Mrs. Byrne, and the science teacher, Ms. Florentine, was suggested. Mr. Miletsky will be asked to reach out to all teachers to learn their plans, whether there will be an art show at the spring concert or at the resource fair. Commission members were asked to volunteer for this project. Vacancies remain on the Environmental Commission; to be discussed.

Ms. Smith reported Sustainable Jersey has certified approval for 180 points which allows us to participate when the grant application process begins. Ms. Fascinelli said the municipal building's heat and air conditioning system is being investigated for a possible energy grant application when the application process begins in February. Organizations donate money to Sustainable Jersey for grants. Ms. Smith offered to write the application but she will need help with the executing requirements. Some plans are labor intensive, others are paperwork. ANJEC grants will be made available to members in the spring, up to \$1,500 each year. The parameters can be considered when grant applications are announced. In the past, we have received ANJEC grants for trail beautification and bluebird boxes as well as the photo contest. Mr. McMekin offered to conduct a mushroom workshop, the cost would be minimal.

### Committee Reports

Mr. Jewell reported a Land Use Board meeting with the new Township Planner and a discussion of the Master Plan review. The Planner is requesting a list of farms preserved since the last Master Plan update as well as a listing of any lots that should be considered for rezoning. A tax map update must be planned by the Township Committee (this is part of the Master Plan). The Meadows at Mansfield development is progressing with 17 building permits issued; nothing is occupied at this time, but there is much activity. The large water main is not yet working.

Mr. Jewell reported sighting a coyote in his yard.

The legislation covering marijuana availability in New Jersey has not yet been signed by Governor Murphy. Many towns are taking action on what they do or do not want; there

remains no word yet from Mansfield Township. Commission members discussed the issue, including the struggles with young people vaping and smoking pot.

A worm composting workshop will be held Saturday, October 13, sponsored by the Liberty Township Environmental Commission.

Mr. Todd MOVED to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:**  
**November 8, 2018**